

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PACIFIC BASIN AREA
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

FOREST SITE PREPARATION

(Hectare, Acre)

CODE 490

DEFINITION

Altering site conditions by methods such as controlling or eliminating undesirable vegetation, removal of slash and debris, and mechanical disturbance of the soil.

PURPOSES

- Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants; and,
- Permit artificial establishment of woody plants.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all lands where establishment of woody plants is desired.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to all Purposes

The method, intensity and timing of site preparation will match the limitations of the site, equipment, and the requirements of the desired woody species.

An appropriate site preparation method will be chosen to protect any desirable vegetation.

Remaining slash and debris shall not create habitat for or harbor harmful levels of pests.

Remaining slash and debris shall not hinder needed equipment operations or create an undue fire hazard.

Erosion and/or runoff will be controlled.

Soil compaction and displacement will be minimized.

All chemicals will be applied in accordance with label guidelines.

Comply with applicable laws and regulations.

CONSIDERATIONS

The site preparation method should be cost effective and protect cultural resources, wildlife habitat, water resources, and identified unique areas.

Visual quality objectives should be considered when selecting site preparation methods.

Anticipate possible off-site effects and modify the site preparation design accordingly.

Consider personnel safety during site preparation activities.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans will address method of site preparation, species, and protection required for desirable woody plants.

Specifications for applying this practice and protection of the site shall be prepared and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation and maintenance requirements are not applicable for this practice.

REFERENCES

1. Guidance Specifying Management Measures for Sources of Non-point Pollution in Coastal Waters. Chapter 3: Management Measures for Forestry. Section. F. Site Prep. & Forest Regeneration. US EPA, Office of Water. 1997.